

Deaf Seniors of America

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October 18, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket # 02-311- Biennial Review 2002

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of senior Americans with hearing disabilities, I strongly recommend that the existing telecommunications regulations on accessibility be either maintained or upgraded instead of modified or repealed.

I am the President of the Deaf Seniors of America (DSA), which is a non-profit consumer-oriented national organization representing 35% of all Americans over 50 years old who have hearing disabilities. Due to lack of sensitivity and awareness of the needs of senior citizens, senior citizens, especially those with hearing losses, would experience discrimination. Thus, the DSA was established to promote and educate senior citizens of their rights.

Prior to the ADA days, senior Americans with hearing disabilities had limited access to information, were not able to use telecommunications, were isolated especially from their hearing families and friends, were not be able to understand televised programs, and were unable to avoid many fraud situations. Due to effective involvement of the FCC, related regulations improved the lives of senior Americans with hearing disabilities tremendously!

In closing, we are asking the FCC not to modify or repeal existing regulations which will force us to go back to the dark age of isolation and loneliness.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gertrude S. Galloway, Ph.D., LL.D.
President